

14 March 1963

INFORMAL NOTES FOR MR. ECKEL

SUBJECT: Special Group (CI) Meeting, 14 March 1963

1. There was a long discussion about the consumables for Thailand. The general agreement seemed to be that a gradual reduction over the next two years would be effected rather than a sudden cut off.
2. There was a very long discussion concerning a couple of feeder roads in Thailand. The question seemed to be whether it was a matter of improving existing but inadequate roads or building new ones from scratch. It was clear there was a lapse in communication between AID Washington and the Country Team in Thailand. This disturbed the Attorney General considerably and after failing to get an answer to another question the A.G. left the meeting.
3. We are not getting anywhere with the Thais in our efforts to install a VOA megawatt transmitter. It was agreed the matter would be reopened with the Embassy being asked to push it more energetically. It was also agreed that we will in any case try to find a 50 KW transmitter to cover Northeast Thailand.
4. There was a brief discussion about the delay in arming the strategic hamlets and the current status of the matter.
5. General Krulak took exception to the summary sheet covering progress in Vietnam. He feels the situation is much better than the summary sheet indicated, and that the Viet Cong capabilities are less than represented on the summary sheet.
6. General Krulak undertook to get an answer to questions which were raised as to the value of the defoliation program.

7. Mr. Gilpatric complained that the Latin America Policy Committee had not addressed itself, apparently, to two of General Taylor's three comments on Venezuela. The matter was put over for Mr. Johnson to check out.

8. Mr. Johnson undertook to make a summary report of the status of the recommendations of the Byroade and Draper team reports.

9. The undersigned raised the question of Mr. Kitchens' survey in behalf of the training subcommittee respecting the assignments of departmental representatives who have taken the CI seminar. I made it clear that we could not provide the names together with assignments of our participants. Mr. Johnson indicated that a statistical presentation would be more than adequate and the paper was needed for presentation to the President. I replied we could make a statistical presentation and Mr. Johnson assured me this would be more than adequate.



Thomas H. Karamessines  
Assistant Deputy Director (Plans)